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Agenda items 18, 116 and 157

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Letter dated 24 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 24 October 1997.

On behalf of the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.4/Rev.1, I would like to express to you our fullest support to your stated position regarding the highest priority that you attach to the Decolonization Programme and welcome your decision to maintain the substantive responsibility for the Decolonization Programme in the Department of Political Affairs.

At a meeting held this afternoon, the co-sponsors have given careful consideration to the proposals contained in your letter.

It is the expectation of the co-sponsors that the "Decolonization Unit" with all its present functions would be located in the Department of Political Affairs, reporting directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. The co-sponsors would be grateful for your confirmation that this indeed is the case.

With that understanding, we welcome in particular your decision to provide a stand-alone Decolonization Unit with the necessary resources to provide a substantive servicing to the Special Committee of 24 required for the implementation of subprogramme 1.6 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

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We would appreciate receiving your clarifications by Monday, 27 October, before the Fourth Committee would take action on draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.4/Rev.1.

I would also appreciate it if the text of the present letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18, 116 and 157.

The co-sponsors welcome your willingness to take into account the views of Member States on this very important political agenda.

(Signed) Utula U. SAMANA, CMG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative